

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response extended to expire on May 17, 2003. Claims 4-9, 11-16, 18-31, 33-38, 40-43, and 45-53 are pending in the application. Claims 23-31, 33-38, 40-43, and 45-49 are allowed and claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11-16, 18-22, and 50-52 stand rejected. Applicants have cancelled claims 5, 14, 29, 42, and 52 without prejudice and have amended the claims to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over *Williams et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,174,431). Claims 7-9, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Williams et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,174,431). Claims 21, 22, and 50-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Williams et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,174,431) in view of *Habiby et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,021,333).

Applicants have amended base claims 4 and 50 to obviate these rejections. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite that the phase transfer catalyst comprises a glycol, and amended claim 50 to include a glycol in the presence of an inorganic base compound. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed invention. Having addressed all

issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

This application is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) of United States Application No. 09/465,637, filed on December 17, 1999, now Patent No. 6,238,551, which is a continuation-in-part of United States Application No. 09/250,741, filed on February 16, 1999, now Patent No. 6,007,701, and a continuation-in-part of United States Application No. 09/265,903 filed on March 10, 1999. This application is also related to co-pending United States Application No. 09/753,495 filed on January 2, 2001, and United States Application No. 09/754,680 filed on January 4, 2001, now Patent No. 6,319,394.

IN THE CLAIMS:

4. (Amended) A method for purifying motor oil, comprising:
mixing the motor oil with a phase transfer catalyst in the presence of a base compound, wherein the phase transfer catalyst comprises a glycol;
mixing the motor oil with a solvent to dissolve contaminants from the motor oil into the solvent; and then
separating the solvent from the motor oil.
50. (Amended) A method for removing contaminants from motor oil, comprising:
mixing the motor oil with a glycol [phase transfer catalyst] in the presence of an inorganic base compound;
mixing the motor oil with N,N-dimethylformamide to dissolve contaminants from the motor oil into the solvent;
separating the N,N-dimethylformamide from the motor oil; and then
separating the contaminants from the solvent.

53. (Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the [phase transfer catalyst] glycol comprises ethylene glycol.